

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 /083 W

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R 301040Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 925

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, EG, SY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN DCM'S CONCERN OVER SYRIAN INTENTIONS IN LEBANON

1. PRIOR TO HIS RETURN FROM PRAGUE TO CAIRO ON AUGUST 25,
EGYPTIAN DCM FAHMY OFFERED FOLLOWING "PERSONAL"
ANALYSIS OF LEBANESE SITUATION TO DCM.

2. FAHMY SAID EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT HAD WARNED ABOUT
SYRIAN INCURSION AGAINST PLO FORCES IN LEBANON AND THE
PROBLEMS IT MIGHT LEAD TO, AND SADAT WAS RIGHT. ONLY
ISRAEL AND JORDAN WERE BENEFITING FROM THE WEAKENING OF
THE PLO, SINCE TELAVIV AND AMMAN COULD HENCEFORTH PRO-
MOTE THE POLITICAL FORTUNES OF OTHER WEST BANK PALESTINIAN
GROUPS MORE AMENABLE TO DEALING WITH THEM.

3. FAHMY THOUGHT SYRIA HAD GONE INTO LEBANON

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PARTLY TO RECOVER LOST PRESTIGE FROM EARLIER

JFEATS BY ISRAEL AND PARTLY OUT OF A "GREATER SYRIA"MEGALOMANIA. BUT DAMASCUS WOULD REGRET ITS ADVENTURE, FAHMY THOUGHT, BECAUSE WHILE HE FORESAW A CRUSHING OF THE PLO BY THE COMBINED POWER OF LEBANESE CHRISTIAN AND SYRIAN FORCES, HE THOUGHT SYRIA WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE IRRESISTABLY TEMPTED TO TURN AGAINST THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS. ONCE DAMASCUS DECIDED TO DO THAT, ISRAEL WOULD INEVITABLY INVADE ONCE MORE AND OCCUPY THE SOUTHERN PART OF SYRIA. FAHMY WAS VERY RELIEVED THAT EGYPT WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT STRUGGLE.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO PASS JUDGMENT ON FAHMY'S HYPOTHESIZING ON HOW SYRIA'S ACTIONS IN LEBANON MAY TURN OUT, BUT WE ARE REPORTING HIS VIEWS AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO ADDRESSEE POSTS.

BYRNE

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